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GEOGRAPHIC

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CHILDREN'S
MAGAZINE!

KIDS

COOL CREATURES!

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giant wētā, pekapeka and more!

AOTEAROA
New Zealand

SPECIAL!



ALL ABOUT
**MĀORI
CULTURE**



E WEN WONG
**EXPLORER
OF THE
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30 MIDDLE
AGES
FACTS

For children
aged 3-6

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Perfect for animal-loving pre-schoolers, our new magazine is packed with gorgeous photographs, fascinating facts and exciting stories to read together.

Enjoy fun activities and puzzles to develop your child's key skills in numeracy, literacy and more!



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Kids

Kia ora*, Kids!

This issue we're exploring the incredible island nation of New Zealand. Located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean on the other side of the world, this fascinating country is full of curious creatures found nowhere else on Earth - meet some of them on page 10! We also discover the culture and history of New Zealand's first people - the Māori. Learn what pūkana, tā moko and hongi are on page 16.

Plus, scientists reveal their biggest mistakes (including an embarrassing incident with whale poo!) and we uncover 30 facts about the Middle Ages. Enjoy the posters, puzzles and activities, too. Mā te wā!

Editor Tim and the Nat Geo Kids team



*Hello and 'See you later' in te reo Māori, the Māori language.

FREE this issue...



6 POSTERS!

COOL QR CODES

We've put some QR codes in this month's mag. If you point a smart device at them you'll be taken to more awesome stuff online. Try it here!



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New Zealand**

SPECIAL!

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Inspiring stories from around the globe...

The robot painting a portrait!



AI-Da visited the House of Lords!



A self-portrait created especially for the UN summit!



World's first robot artist

Meet **AI-Da** – the world's first **artist robot**! Created by a team of **art experts**, **engineers** and **psychologists**, AI-Da makes art by 'looking' with **cameras in her eyes**, then painting using her **complex robotic arm**. She's painted **popstars** like **Billie Eilish** and has even created a portrait of the late **Queen Elizabeth II**! Though made in **2019**, AI-Da recently represented Britain at the 'Artificial Intelligence for Good' global summit* at the **United Nations (UN)**. There was an exhibition of her work and she also gave a **live performance of art and poetry**. Thanks to her powerful **AI language programming**, AI-Da was able to **chat** with **politicians** and **tech experts**, sharing her **opinions** and **discussing** how she makes art. What would YOU ask her?!

* A summit is an important meeting between government leaders from different countries.

Lost sailor rescued!

Ahoy there! On **12 July**, Australian sailor **Tim Shaddock**, 54, and his dog, **Bella**, were rescued from the **Pacific Ocean** after **three months lost at sea** in a broken boat!

The pair left **northwest Mexico** in late April, sailing a **catamaran** towards **French Polynesia**, a group of islands in the south-central Pacific Ocean. But when a **storm struck**, the boat lost its **sail**, **electronics** and **navigation system**. Stranded over **1,900km** from land, Tim and Bella survived by eating **raw fish** and drinking **rainwater** until a helicopter flying alongside a **tuna fishing boat** spotted Shaddock's vessel! The elated duo were treated for **dehydration** and **sunburn**, before being returned to **Manzanillo, Mexico**, safe and sound. Hooray!



Tim and Bella were at sea for 90 days

One of the rescuers has now adopted Bella!

3 FAST FACTS!

VULTURES

It's **International Vulture Awareness Day** on **2 September**. Let's find out why these misunderstood birds are well worth celebrating...

1 All **vultures** eat **carcass**, the flesh of **dead animals**. Their super-strong **stomach acid** stops them getting ill from **germs** in the rancid meat, and **bald heads** mean they don't get **blood** or **bacteria** in their feathers when stuffing their faces. Clever!

2 Though their diet may seem a bit gross to us, by stripping carcasses of decaying meat, vultures provide a **vital cleaning service**! Without them, dead animals could **rot** and **spread diseases**. So, cheers, dudes!

3 Sadly, **nine** of the **23 vulture species** are **endangered**. In **India**, millions died after eating **cattle** that vets had treated with a drug called **Diclofenac**. No one realised it was **fatal to the birds**.

Vultures are found in **Europe**, **Asia**, **Africa** and the **Americas**! They soar above **large open areas**, using **sight** and **smell** to spot **carcass** from over **1km** away.

Africa's lappet-faced vulture has a wingspan of up to 2.7m!



Sea otter steals surfboards!



The cheeky otter eyes up a surfboard

A **fur-ocious predator** has emerged on the coast of **Santa Cruz, California, USA**, creating havoc among the surfers. Nope, it isn't a **shark** or an **orca** – it's a **surfboard-stealing southern sea otter**!

First spotted in **July**, the cute-looking creature, known as **Otter 841**, started off simply swimming alongside surfers. But then she began **biting the beginners' foam boards**. And soon she was **wrestling paddleboards** off their owners – and **hopping on them herself**. The cheek! Though this behaviour might seem fun, the **five-year-old otter's sharp teeth** and **clam-crushing jaws** could hurt someone if they got too close. So, to **protect her** (and the local surfers) from harm, officials are trying to capture **Otter 841** and **relocate her**. But, true to her nature, she's evaded all their attempts so far. Otterly amazing!

Sea Otter Awareness week is **24–30 September**.

Belize is malaria-free!

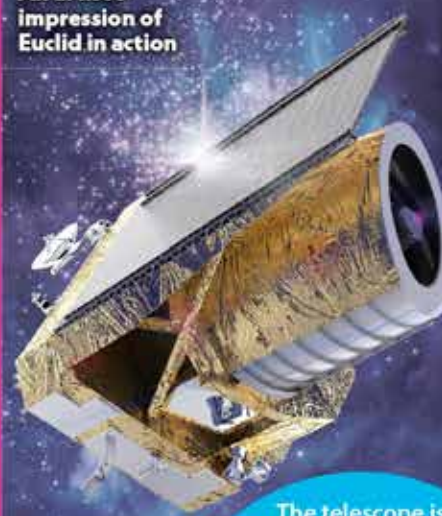
Great news from **Central America**! The **World Health Organisation** has certified the coastal country of **Belize** to be **completely free of malaria**. This dangerous disease is passed on by **mosquitoes**, which can **infect humans** when the insects bite them. Malaria is one of the world's deadliest infectious diseases and is present in more than **80 tropical countries**, even though today there are **medicines** that help people recover, and even **vaccines** to prevent it.

In **Belize**, **mosquito nets** and **insecticides** helped prevent bites, which reduced malaria cases from **10,000 in 1994** to **zero in 2019**. Now, after **three years of no cases**, Belize has been declared the **42nd malaria-free country in the world**. Yay!



Only female *Anopheles* mosquitoes carry malaria-causing parasites

An artist's impression of Euclid in action



The telescope is named after **Euclid of Alexandria**, a **Greek mathematician** who lived **2,000 years ago**. He wrote **13 books** called *The Elements*, and is considered to be the 'father of geometry'. Wow!

WHAT'S THAT WORD?

EUCLID Say: "YOO-kid"

This strange word is the name of a **powerful new telescope** which was blasted into space on **1 July**.

Built by the **European Space Agency** and launched by **SpaceX**, **Euclid** is now in location **1.5 million km** from Earth. Soon the telescope will start peering deep into space to detect and record millions of galaxies, creating the largest **3D 'map' of the Universe** ever made – with **time** being the **third dimension**.

Because **light from faraway objects** takes a **long time** to reach us, the **two-tonne** telescope will see some galaxies as they looked **11 billion years ago**! By comparing these to nearby galaxies, **Euclid** will track how galaxies have been affected by 'dark energy', which is believed to **push things further and further apart over time**. Whoa!

MAKE IT A DATE

Key events for your diary!



Great British Beach Clean

Find a local event on the Marine Conservation Society's website!



Talk Like a Pirate Day

Brush up on your pirate slang, me hearties!



World Rhino Day

Help save these amazing animals from extinction!



International Day of Sign Language

Learn about sign language!



World Gorilla Day

Celebrate the great apes!

WOLF ROAD

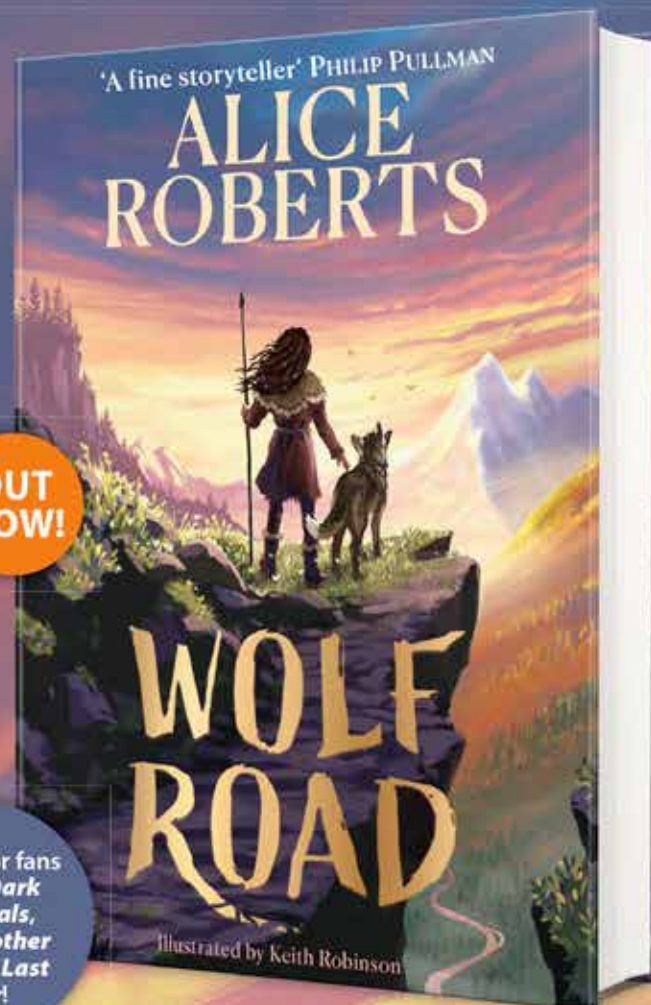
Discover a vast adventure with a very human heart! Full of wild animals, huge scenery and thrilling danger, you'll love this Ice Age story from Professor Alice Roberts...

Twelve-year-old Tuuli is a prehistoric girl, travelling with her tribe through the seasons – making camp, hunting for food and heading for an estuary where the reindeer gather each summer. But Tuuli knows there's a bigger world out there, and when she spots a strange boy lurking outside the camp, she realises that he might hold the adventure she is looking for.

The boy is a Neanderthal, sent by his tribe to find safer ground, and as he and Tuuli strike up an unlikely friendship, they set out on a journey that will impact the rest of human history...

OUT NOW!

Perfect for fans of *His Dark Materials*, *Wolf Brother* and *The Last Bear*!



MYSTERY CREATURE

Fill in the gaps with letters so that a four-letter word is formed either side. If you get it right, you'll spell out the common name of a now-extinct giant deer that lived during the Ice Age.

Answer on page 49

ANT		NCH
POO		OPE
SEM		NKY
MES		IGN
MAS		AND
ACN		CHO
FIL		IFE
PEE		ISS

This giant deer had horns that were up to 3.5m across!

Available from
WATERSTONES

ASK ALICE!

We spoke to author, broadcaster and academic Alice Roberts about her amazing book...

Hi Alice! What inspired you to write this story?

I spent a lot of time imagining what it must have been like to live as a hunter gatherer. Archaeology allows us to see how societies worked: how people were close to the animals they hunted, migrating with them, and how they created art as well as tools for survival.

What was Europe like thousands of years ago? At the time my story is set, Europe was gripped in an icy climate where the snow only melted for a few brief months each year.

Oof, sounds tough. Have you had any real-life trips that inspired *Wolf Road*?

I've spent time with reindeer herders in the far north of Siberia – witnessing their way of life has given me insight into the experiences and challenges felt by our ancestors.

Wow! What do you hope we will get from reading the story?

I want to make that connection to our ancestors as vivid as possible. I hope that immersing yourself in Tuuli's story gives you some idea of what life would have been like in the depths of the Ice Age, where early humans experienced adventure, hardship, joy and excitement – just as we do today.

Thanks, Alice!



Illustrations © 2023 Keith Robinson



Bet You
Didn't
Know!

7 terrific facts about tails

1

A spider monkey can use its tail as an extra 'arm' to hang from branches.

2

When chasing prey, a cheetah swings its tail to one side to balance while turning quickly.

3

One type of snake has a tail that looks like a spider to lure prey such as birds.

4

Zebras can use the tips of their tails to swat flies.

5

To attract mates, the superb lyrebird fans its tail over its head like an umbrella, then dances and chirps.

6

Lions sometimes display friendliness by draping their tails over each other.

7

A giraffe's tail can grow up to 2.4m – that's as long as a surfboard!

Monkey: © iStockphoto / Alamy; Giraffe: © iStockphoto / Alamy; Lyrebird: © iStockphoto / Alamy

THE BIG PICTURE

NAT GEO KIDS' image of the month

POLISH PLAYGROUND



How cool does this public park in **Chorzów, Poland**, look? The fun shapes and vibrant colours were bathed in **early morning sunlight** when **Polish photographer Sebastian Piórek** captured this image using a **drone camera** – long before any kids had arrived to play.

SLAS architects, who designed 'Activity Zone', were careful to **preserve existing trees** – which provide shade – and they included loads of **lovely-smelling plants**. The **smooth concrete platform** is great for **rollerblading and skating** across, and there's loads of exciting equipment, too! The park has transformed a once **abandoned and neglected** area into a place people can now enjoy. We want to go!

● Sebastian's pic won top spot in the **Urban** category of the **Drone Photo Awards 2023**.

NEW ZEALAND'S COOLEST CREATURES

This island country is full of bonkers beasts that appear nowhere else on Earth. Let's meet some of them - starting with the birds...

BIRD BONANZA!

New Zealand has loads of **unique land birds** - and many of them can't fly. Why? Well, for millions of years, NZ had **no land mammals** (including people), which meant there were **no predators** to hunt birds. So, with no need to escape, many of the birds **lost the ability to fly**. Instead, they gradually evolved to become **big and heavy**, like the huge **250kg, 3m-tall moa** (right). But when **humans** first came to NZ, many of these flightless species - including the **tasty ostrich-like moa** - were **hunted to extinction**. And in the **1700s**, **European settlers** (and the rats and cats on board their ships) caused more extinctions. Now just **41 out of 91 native species** remain.



It's the 3m moa!

Many of these cuties have been crowned **champions** in NZ's long-running **Bird of the Year** contest, which was set up in **2005** to raise awareness of **threatened birdlife**.

Some of New Zealand's birds were originally from **Australia** - they established NZ populations after being **blown over by the wind**!

Who's a clever bird? Me, that's who!

Humans didn't arrive in NZ until around **1250-1300** - giving it the **shortest human history** of any country!

THE CLEVER CLOWNS

MĀORI NAME: Kea

OTHER NAME: New Zealand mountain parrot

These cheeky parrots might just be the **smartest birds in the world**! Older kea teach younger ones to **forage for fruit and insects** with their **beak and claws**. But as **humans** have moved into the birds' environment, the kea have used their skills to **undo bins, break into houses, attack cars and steal from people's bags**! Other mischievous behaviour includes **pelting people with stones**, while one unfortunate tourist even had his **passport nicked**!

In 2018, to stop kea from **moving traffic cones** during roadworks in **South Island**, bird experts set up an **'intellectually stimulating' roadside 'gym'** to keep the kea away. And in one recent study, the curious birds were taught to **interact with touch screens** using their **tongues**. We **lick** the sound of that a lot!

Kea are the world's only **alpine parrots**!

Although it might seem fun for people to interact with kea, it's safer for the birds to **avoid humans**. Our food is bad for them, and they can be hurt by **vehicles or dogs**.

THE NATIONAL ICONS

MĀORI NAME: Kiwi

Not only are **kiwi** the country's national bird, but **people** from New Zealand are also nicknamed '**kiwis**'! More like **mammals** than birds, **nocturnal kiwi** dig **burrows**, have **hair-like feathers**, **tough skin** and a **strange cat-like claw** on the end of each **small, useless wing**. They're also the only birds on Earth with **nostrils at the tip of their beak**, which they use to **sniff out worms**.

I'm an icon, I'm a legend, and I AM the moment!

Female kiwi lay one **huge egg** per season, which weighs about **1/6th** of the mum's **body weight**. Chicks can live alone after just **ten days**.

Kākāpō can live for up to **90 years**!

THE VERY PECULIAR PARROTS

MĀORI NAME: Kākāpō

The world's only **flightless parrot**, and one of the **rarest birds on Earth**, there are only around **100** of these **fat, green, tree-climbing, nocturnal parrots** left in the wild.



THE DRUNKARDS

MĀORI NAME: Kererū

Best known for their habit of getting '**drunk**' on **rotting fruit** and then **falling out of trees**, this **big, bronze-and-green wood pigeon** helps native forests grow by **eating fruit and pooping out the seeds**.



THE TEENY ONES

MĀORI NAME: Tara iti

OTHER NAME: New Zealand fairy tern
NZ's **rarest breeding bird**, there are fewer than **40** of these **delicate, elegant seabirds** left in the wild. Conservationists are working hard to stop them going **extinct**.



THE GUARDIANS

MĀORI NAME: Ruru

OTHER NAME: Morepork owl

The big-eyed **ruru** is the **only remaining native owl species** in NZ. Seen as a **watchful guardian** in Māori culture, its call can signal either **good or bad news** depending on the sound.

THE ONES THAT CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD

MĀORI NAME: Takahē

People thought the **chicken-sized, flightless takahē** was **extinct** for over **50 years**, until it was **rediscovered** in New Zealand's **Murchison Mountains** in **1948**. They've now been introduced to several **predator-free islands** and **fenced sanctuaries** where they're **protected** as they **eat seeds** in their **grassland habitat**. There are fewer than **300** of these **blue-green sturdy birdies** left.

Takahē can't fly, but they **shake their weak wings** during **courtship displays**!

You can't keep me down!



Turn over to meet more amazing NZ animals!

THE LAUGHING LIZARDS

MĀORI NAME: Moko kākāriki

OTHER NAME: Northland green gecko

Say hello to this month's colourful cover star – the Northland green gecko! The bright green lizards, which are only found in the Northland region of NZ, have white or golden blotches on their skin, plus a dark blue mouth and red tongue that completes their fancy appearance! The remarkable reptiles have strong prehensile tails that help them grip branches as they scamper through trees. Their chattering "kata" call is said to sound like laughter!

Yay! I'm on the cover of this month's mag!

These geckos are masters of camouflage, waiting for insects to approach before striking at them with their red tongues. Slurp!



THE SUPER SWIMMERS

MĀORI NAME: Tuna kuwharuwharu

OTHER NAME: Longfin eel

These metre-long freshwater fish are powerful swimmers and remarkable 'climbers'. If a young eel's way is blocked by a dam or a waterfall, it can leave the water and wriggle over damp ground before continuing upstream. Wow! The 80kg eels can live for more than 80 years in New Zealand's rivers and lakes, before swimming to the sea to breed and die.

I'm eel-y amazing!

Longfin eels are very important to Māori culture. Seen as a gift from the gods, they were an important source of protein in Māori ancestors' diets.

THE MIGHTY MOVERS

MĀORI NAME: Whakahao (male) and rāpoko (female)

OTHER NAME: New Zealand sea lion

Unlike other sea lion species, female New Zealand sea lions gradually move inland from the beach once they've given birth, to protect their infants from sandstorms, harsh weather and hefty males. The mothers have even been found protecting their pups in forests a whopping 2km from the ocean. Whoa! It's thought just 12,000 of these massive marine mammals remain in the wild today, making them the world's most endangered sea lions.

Forget the sea – I wanna go bathe in the forest!

Whakahao (males) can be twice the size of rāpoko (females), weighing up to 450kg – that's as heavy as six adult humans!



SHORT-TAILED BAT



Bat you can't believe how tiny I am!

THE FOREST FORAGERS

MĀORI NAME: Pekapeka

NAME: Long-tailed and short-tailed bat

These tiny critters are New Zealand's only native land mammals! Weighing just 8–11g (that's lighter than two Jelly Babies), long-tailed bats can fly at up to 60kmph as they zoom around snatching insects from the air. But short-tailed bats prefer to dine on the forest floor, folding up their wings and using them like 'limbs' to scramble about searching for bugs to devour. Short-tailed bats also eat nectar, fruit and pollen. Yum!

In Māori folklore, the pekapeka is a creature that links the world of the living with the spirit world.

Turn over to meet four more super species from NZ!

LONG-TAILED BAT



THE TITCHY DOLPHINS

MĀORI NAME: Tutumairekurai
OTHER NAME: Hector's dolphin

Some of the smallest and rarest dolphins in the world, **Hector's dolphins** have distinctive **rounded dorsal fins** that look a bit like one of **Mickey Mouse's ears**. Aww! Just **1.5m in length** – that's about the height of an average **11-year-old kid**! – these marine mammals live in **small pods** around the coast of New Zealand's **South Island**. Hector's dolphins don't whistle to each other like other dolphin species do. Instead, these quiet swimmers **only communicate with high-pitched clicks**.

Just call me Mickey!



Newborn Hector's dolphins are short and stumpy – they look like rugby balls with flippers. Cute!

Archev's frogs have been called 'living fossils' because they're almost identical to the fossilised remains of frogs that lived 150 million years ago!

I just need to follow my nose!

THE STINKY SILENT TYPE

MĀORI NAME: Pepeketua
OTHER NAME: Archev's frog

New Zealand's **smallest native frogs**, these **3cm-long amphibians** live in **damp forests on North Island**. Their blotchy colours **camouflage** them in the dense undergrowth.

Unlike most other frogs, these endangered hoppers **can't croak**, so they communicate through **scent**. They **don't have tadpoles**, either – instead, the mum's eggs hatch into **tailed froglets**, which **clamber on to the dad's back** and **ride piggy-back** for several weeks until they're fully grown. Amazing!



Check out my crest!



THE CENTURIONS

MĀORI NAME: Tuatara

New Zealand's **largest reptiles** are also its **oldest** – the **half-metre-long lizards** can live for **100 years**. Whoa! They're named after the **crest of spines** that runs down the male's neck and back (the Māori word 'tara' means 'spiny' and 'tua' means 'back'). The reptiles **stiffen their spines** when they want to **attract females** or **threaten rival males**. Like many other NZ animals, these awesome oldies are found **nowhere else on the planet**.

Tuatara can change colour during their life – from an olive-green to an orangey-red. Snazzy!

Wētā have been on Earth since **before the dinosaurs**! More than **100 species** exist today – all of which are only found in **New Zealand**.

Wētā you looking at?



THE COLOSSAL CREEPY-CRAWLIES

MĀORI NAME: Wētāpunga

OTHER NAME: Little Barrier Island giant wētā

Check out this incredible bug! Looking like a cross between a **grasshopper** and a **cockroach**, this species of **giant wētā** can measure **11cm in length** and **weigh more than a mouse**! Found only on **Little Barrier Island (Te Hauturu-o-Toi in Māori)**, **80km off the coast of Auckland**, the enormous insect **hides in fallen leaves** during the day, venturing out at night to **eat plants** that have **large leaves**. The word 'wētā' translates as '**god of ugly things**'. So unfair!

All about

MĀORI CULTURE

Kia ora! Read on to discover the history, culture and legends of Aotearoa's* Indigenous people...

IN THE BEGINNING...

For a very long time there were **no people** at all in Aotearoa New Zealand. It was a land of ancient forests, bustling with unusual **land birds** and **noisy insects**, with **giant eagles** swooping overhead. But then, according to Māori legend, the great Polynesian explorer **Kupe** arrived on its shores around **1,000 years ago**. Using the **stars** and **ocean currents**, he had **navigated** across the **Pacific Ocean** in a **waka hourua** (voyaging canoe) all the way from his **South Pacific homeland**, known as **Hawaiki**. Later, in the years between **1250** and **1300**, more canoes arrived, steered by **skilled Polynesian navigators**. These original settlers and their ancestors are known as **Māori**...

MĀORI LIFE

For **several centuries**, Māori lived on Aotearoa in small tribes called **iwi**, hunting the abundant **birdlife**, **seals** and **fish**, as well as **gardening root vegetables**. Expert **boat builders**, they traded goods between other **Polynesian islands** and **across oceans**. They developed crafts like **whakairo** (wood and stone carving) to share their rich **histories** and **legends**. There was **warfare**, too – mainly over **territory** – and many Māori trained to be **fierce warriors**!

Dutch explorer Abel Tasman was the first **European** to arrive, in **1642**. But he was **scared off** by locals and **didn't stay long**. It wasn't until **British explorer James Cook** (assisted by **Tahitian navigator Tupaia**) 'found' and mapped New Zealand in **1789–90**, that **traders** and **settlers** began to arrive – and **things changed dramatically**...

Māori legend says that Aotearoa's **North Island** was fished out of the sea by the demigod **Māui**, using a massive **hook** he'd carved from his ancestor's **jawbone**! The **South Island** is said to be **Māui's waka** (canoe).



*Aotearoa (say "ow tay-uh ROE-uh") is the Māori name for New Zealand. It means 'land of the long white clouds.'

Today, Māori make up **16.5%** of Aotearoa's population.

EUROPEAN ARRIVALS

The **European traders** brought with them **guns** and **diseases** – which caused many **deaths**. **Religious missionaries** introduced **Christianity** and **farming**, and taught Māori to **read** and **write**. Soon, the **British government** wanted to take control of Aotearoa and, in **1840**, Māori tribal chiefs signed an agreement known as the **Treaty of Waitangi** to make Aotearoa a **British Colony**. In return, Māori were promised **ownership of their land** and many **rights**. But within two decades, the **promises were broken**. There were **disagreements** about the **original translation** of the treaty, which was **different** in the Māori language version, **Te Tiriti o Waitangi**. Māori land was **sold off** in **unfair deals**, and Māori were treated as **inferior**. Wars broke out, leading to **thousands of deaths** and Māori land being **stolen**.



There are **over 100 different Māori iwi** (tribes). Each iwi can trace their origins back to the arrival of certain canoes.

MODERN TIMES

By the early **1900s**, Māori and non-Māori (**Pākehā**) did not have much contact. But in the **1950s**, huge numbers of young Māori moved from rural to urban areas to **escape poverty**. In cities they faced **prejudice** and began to **lose their traditional culture and language**. These struggles prompted Māori to **rise and protest** to **fight for their rights** as the **Indigenous peoples** of Aotearoa. Today, despite **continued suppression**, Māori safeguard and preserve their cultural traditions, which are celebrated throughout the country. **Hūre!** **

** 'Hūre!' means 'Hooray!'

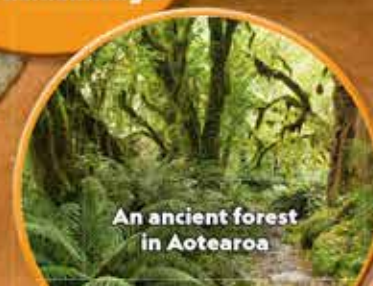
Tā moko – tattoos – have a special and **sacred** meaning to Māori. In the past they signified **social rank**, **skills** and **knowledge**. Patterns are based on **unfolding ferns** and help emphasise **facial expressions**. Important Māori women may receive **Moko kauae** – lip and chin tattoos.



Here, cultural expert **Wetini Mitai-Ngatai** performs a powerful **pūkana**. This **fierce facial expression** involves opening the **eyes** and **mouth wide**. As well as being **intimidating**, **pūkana** can be **playful** or **flirty**, or represent **deep emotions**.

GUARDIANS OF THE LAND

Māori have a **deep respect** for **nature** and consider humans to be a part of the **natural world**, responsible for **protecting** it. The Māori word for this is '**kaitiakitanga**'.



An ancient forest in Aotearoa

GREETINGS!

"**Kia ora!**" is the way to greet people in Aotearoa. This welcoming phrase **doesn't just mean "hello"** – it also references **life** and **health**, translating roughly as "**wishing you the essence of life**". Kia ora can also be used to say "**thanks**" or "**cheers**".

Instead of **handshakes**, Māori do a '**hongi**' – **pressing their noses and foreheads together** in a **shared breath** (see right). Try it!



11–17 September is **Māori Language Week** – **Te wiki o te reo Māori**.

LORD OF FORESTS: Tāne Mahuta



This **52m-tall sacred tree** is a giant **kauri**, one of the **largest** and **longest living tree species** in the world. Situated in **Waipoua Forest**, some visitors have broken down in **tears** gazing up at its mighty trunk! Māori valued these trees for their size, with **logs** carved out to make **waka** (canoes).

KAPA HAKA

Māori are famed throughout the world for their **performing arts** – **kapa haka** – a mixture of **chanting**, **song** and **dance**. The most famous is the '**haka**', a **ceremonial war dance** involving **foot stomps**, **body slapping**, **chants** and **pūkana** (see main pic)! You might have seen it performed by the **All Blacks** or **Black Ferns** rugby teams before matches. These dances showcase a **tribe's strength and unity**, with words describing their **ancestors and history**.



SACRED STONE

Pounamu is a special **green stone** found on the **South Island**. It was once used to make **tools**, **weapons** and **jewellery**. It is **sacred** to Māori, and more **precious** to them than **gold**.



A modern pounamu carving

EXPLORER OF THE MONTH!

E WEN WONG

Meet E Wen, a poetry-writing environmental campaigner who's inspiring young New Zealanders to look after our planet!

FACT FILE



Name: E Wen Wong
From: Christchurch, New Zealand
Job: Poet, geographer, founder of the charity Plastic Solutions for Our Beaches (P.S. Our Beaches) and National Geographic Explorer
Fun fact: E Wen loves music! She plays the oboe in an orchestra.



You might think that poetry has nothing to do with science – but 20-year-old student E Wen knows differently. "Science helps us understand things," she says, "but poetry allows us to tell stories and connect with people, which makes an impact on the world." By combining her love of words with a passion for protecting the planet, E Wen has inspired more than 1,000 young people from New Zealand and Australia to look after their local area. Wow!

P.S. OUR BEACHES

In 2016, E Wen won an award from Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Programs for writing poetry about plastic pollution. She used the prize money to start a charity called P.S. Our Beaches, which runs events teaching kids about issues like climate change, litter and deforestation. Her team also runs

E Wen founded P.S. Our Beaches when she was just 13 years old!

beach cleaning days, tree-planting and other activities that everyone can take part in. "It's our duty to be guardians for the environment," E Wen says.

OCEAN ARTWORKS

E Wen is now studying science and law at The Australian National University, but her work at P.S. Our Beaches hasn't stopped. In the team's latest project, EcoAko, free school workshops are organised so teenagers can create ocean-inspired artwork. "Ako, in the New Zealand language te reo Māori, means both 'to teach' and 'to learn,'" E Wen explains. "Through EcoAko, our charity teaches young people about ocean science while helping them learn from the artworks they produce." Great stuff, E Wen!

E Wen leads a local school workshop



Litter-picking with some volunteers



E Wen loves inspiring others!

In 2019, a student called Emma Burton – who attended a P.S. Our Beaches workshop – went on to join the organising team. In 2022, she led an entire charity event in Wellington. Go, Emma!

It's Emma and E Wen!

Hiking in New Zealand's wild places inspires E Wen to protect them



Taking part in a tree-planting event



THE BIG QUESTION

Why do octopuses shoot ink?



Octopus ink is usually black, but squid ink is dark blue.

Octopuses have another awesome distraction tactic: they can lose an arm and let it wiggle away to confuse predators. It then grows back!

Some artists still use octopus and squid ink in their paintings today!

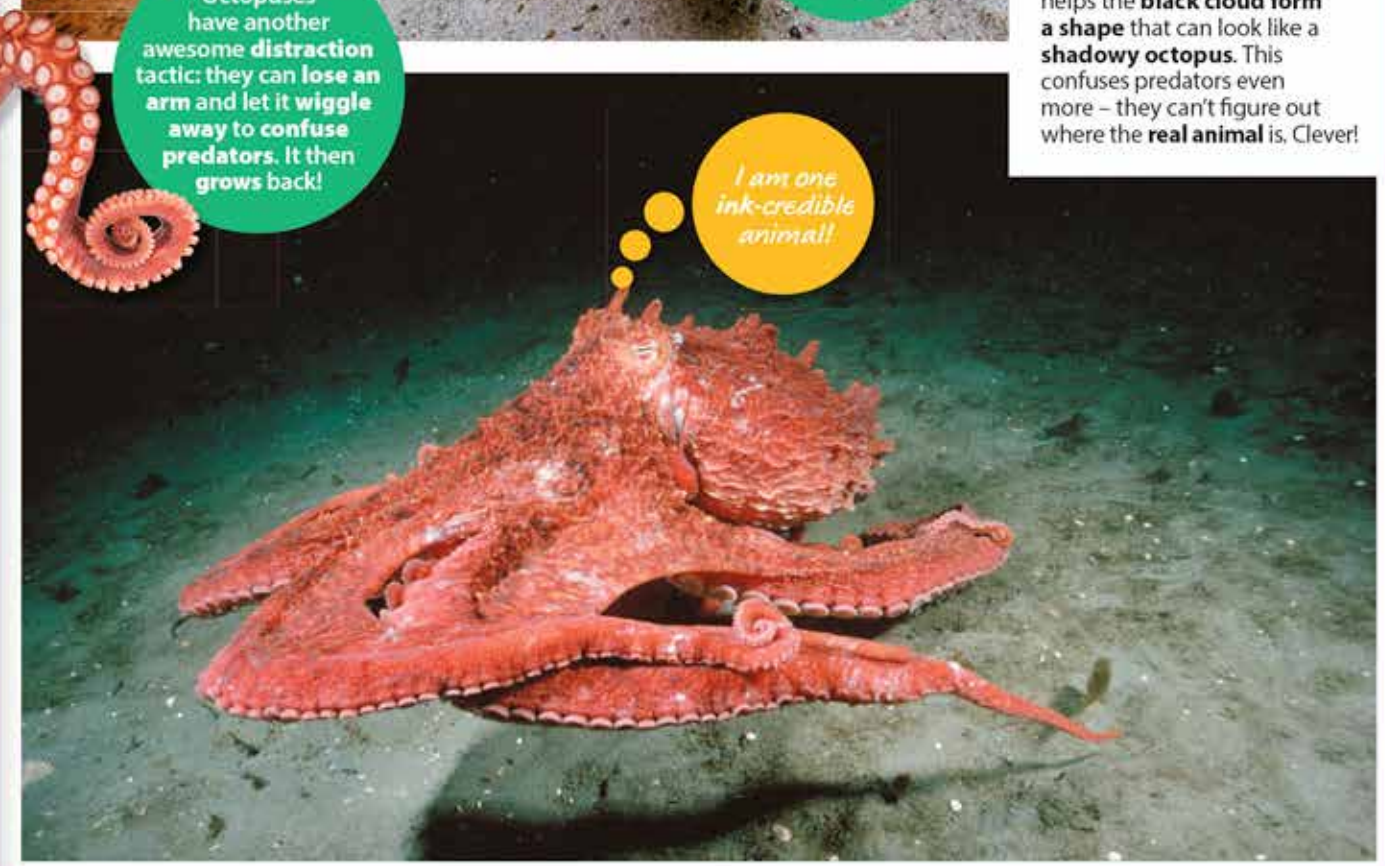
To help them make a great escape!

When an octopus is scared, angry or surprised, it releases ink that's stored in a sac near its gut. The ink is mixed with water and mucus, which squirts out as a murky, black cloud that lingers long enough for the octopus to flee.

But it's more than just a sneaky trick. The ink contains a chemical that can scramble the predator's sense of taste and smell – and even temporarily blind the attacker.

Amazingly, the thick mucus helps the black cloud form a shape that can look like a shadowy octopus. This confuses predators even more – they can't figure out where the real animal is. Clever!

I am one ink-credible animal!



SCIENCE BLOOPERS

Three Nat Geo Explorers reveal their silliest mistakes!



CLOUD OF POOP!

Sperm whales near Sri Lanka do their, er, business in the ocean!

WHOSE POO?

THE SCIENTIST
Mauricio Cantor

COOL JOB
Behavioural ecologist

THE LOCATION
Galápagos Islands, Ecuador, South America



"My team and I were on a boat following **sperm whales**, scooping up their **poop** from the ocean's surface. I wanted to study the stuff to learn more about the **whales' social lives**, so I placed each poo sample into a vial labelled with the animal's name and social group. Then I put the tubes into a container of **liquid nitrogen** – it's minus 195°C and instantly **freezes** the poop, which keeps it fresh. "Back at the lab, I opened the container – and all the **labels had fallen**

off the vials! I didn't know which poop sample belonged to which whale. I'd ordered the **wrong stickers**, which fell off in the **super-cold** temperature. Let's just say I wasn't the most popular person at the lab that day – but I was the most 'poop-ular'!"

"This is how science works – you **fail** a lot, but you **learn** from it. "Luckily, I could use other **data** I had collected on that trip for my **research**. And I definitely learned **not** to buy the wrong labels!"

POOP VIAL!



CAVE CONFUSION

THE SCIENTIST
Violeta Zhelyazkova

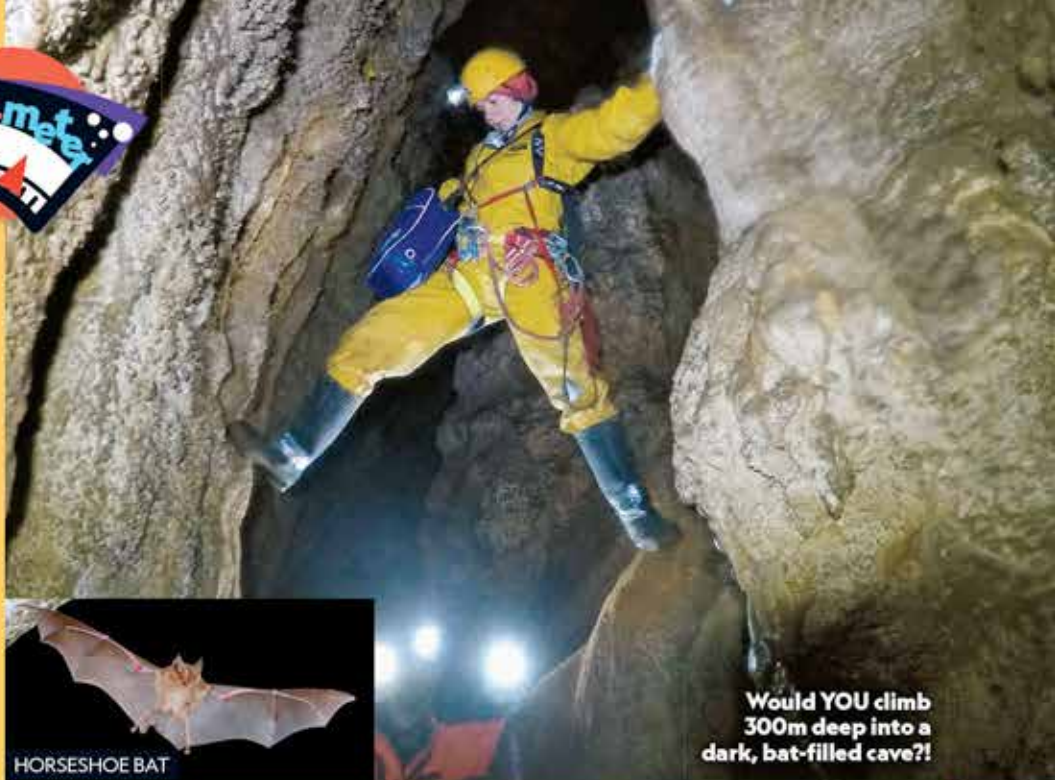
COOL JOB
Biologist and mycologist (fungi scientist)

THE LOCATION
Raychova Dupka cave, Bulgaria, Europe



"My research partner and I entered one of the **deepest caves** in **Bulgaria** to study the **horseshoe bats** that live inside. Many people had explored this cave before, so I thought that we'd see a sign telling visitors when to turn back before the cave became too small for a person to pass through.

"We travelled over **300m** beneath the Earth's surface, **swabbing the bats' noses** and **cave walls** with cotton to gather samples along the way. (We were studying to see if a **fungus** might be growing on these animals.) As we went



HORSESHOE BAT

Would YOU climb 300m deep into a dark, bat-filled cave?!

on, the cave got smaller and smaller until... **I got stuck!** I was so confused – hadn't lots of other people been down here? I had no choice but to turn back. "I **wiggled** backwards while my teammate behind me laughed at my strange moves! **Defeated**, we headed

towards the entrance. And then we spotted the **'No Entry' sign!** "Although we had gathered what we needed from the bats that day, we learned an **important lesson** about paying much **closer attention** while doing science!"

FISHY FAIL

THE EXPLORER
Hannah Nordhaus

COOL JOB
Science journalist

THE LOCATION
Syr Darya river, Kazakhstan, Central Asia



"We were searching for a fish that hadn't been seen in **50 years**, a **sturgeon** called the **Syr Darya shovelnose**. On the first night, I woke up to a strange feeling – hundreds of **tiny ants** were **crawling on my neck** and **biting me!** "I brushed them off, but their bites left big, **red welts**. Then I saw where the ants were walking – straight from the front door to my bag, climbing over



Hannah takes notes (and keeps a lookout for sugar-loving ants!)

The team found plenty of fish – like this asp – but not the one they were looking for!



me and my teammates to get there. "Turns out, a container of **sugary powder** that I mix with water to keep me **hydrated** in this dry region had broken in my bag during my flight to the site. I didn't know it – but the ants did! "Even after I cleaned up the mess, the **ants returned** each night. I learned to pack more carefully and always check my bag upon arrival. "My teammates spent **two weeks** searching sections of the river with nets, and they found **ten different species** of fish. But they didn't find any **Syr Darya sturgeon**, and are planning a **return trip** to search again for this **ghost fish**. So I also learned from them to **never give up.**"

Pigasso paints near South Africa's famous Table Mountain

I prefer inking to oinking!



PRICEY PIG PAINTING



Meet **Pigasso**, a pig that holds the record for the **most expensive painting by an animal** – one of her pieces sold for **£20,276**! The rescued animal started painting after she picked up a **stray paintbrush** with her mouth and rubbed it against a canvas. Now the **South African** artist has completed more than **400** works, all painted using a special **non-toxic ink**. She even **dips her nose in beetroot ink** to 'sign' the pictures with her snout.

FANCY FRIES



So much for a cheap chippy tea! Visitors to the **Serendipity 3** restaurant in **New York City, USA**, can expect to pay **\$200 (£144)** for a **portion of chips** – the **most expensive ever**! Triple-cooked in **goose fat**, the special spuds are topped with shaved **black summer truffles** (a rare kind of fungus) and **23-karat edible gold**. Pass the ketchup!



WEDDING ON WHEELS



This **church** has it all – **stained-glass windows**, an **organ** and... **wheels**? Built in **Shelbyville, USA**, the crazy car is the world's **fastest wedding chapel**, zooming at up to **100kmph**! Dubbed the **'Best Man'**, the vehicle is a former **fire engine** that **Darrell Best** converted into a travelling chapel. Couples can **get married wherever they want** and then catch a lift to the after-party.



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SILVEREYE



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SHEEP NEAR
MOUNT COOK



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1 The **Middle Ages**, or **medieval times**, spanned some **1,000 years** in **Europe**, from about A.D. 500 to 1500.

2 In late 12th-century England, about **one-third of the country** was considered the **king's forest** – no one could use it **without his permission**.



In the 13th century, **German soldiers** used their shields to **carry victorious generals** off the battlefield.



4 You can see **500-year-old graffiti** of **sailors' names carved into stone** at a village in **Finland**.

5 The average medieval person only **lived** until they were **33**.

6 **Buttons** on clothing were a **sign of wealth**.



16 **Medieval artists** extracted **green pigment** from **spinach** to use as paint.



18 People sometimes **paid rent** with **peppercorns**.



20 Many doctors wore **bird masks** stuffed with herbs to ward off diseases, or 'bad air.'

21 Merchants travelled the **6,400km Silk Road** to trade in **Central Asian countries**.

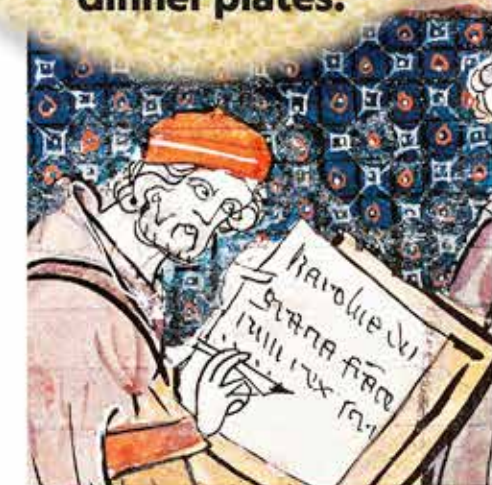
22 Ladies gave **gingerbread cakes** to their **favourite knights** in the **14th and 15th centuries**.



19 **Vikings** – people from what's now **Denmark, Sweden and Norway** – wore **animal skins** and **howled like wolves** during battle.

30 COOL THINGS ABOUT THE MIDDLE AGES

7 Meals were often served on **slabs of stale bread** – not dinner plates.



13 Scholars first used **capital and lowercase letters** – as well as **spaces** in between words – in the **8th century**.

8 Wealthy **noblemen** dined on **porpoises, seals, whales** and even **peacocks** at lavish **medieval banquets**.

10 Work on France's **Notre Dame cathedral** began in **Paris** in **1163** and continued for **almost 200 years**.

11 Many castle walls were **6m thick**.

12 Medieval children played with **dolls** and **blocks** they often **made themselves**.

14 During much of the **Middle Ages**, **birthdays for commoners** were celebrated on the **closest public holiday** to the day they were born.



9 Pies were called '**coffins**' because the pastry was used as a **box** to protect the filling.

15 **Charlemagne** (say "SHAR-luh-main") was a **powerful king** who controlled much of **western Europe** before he died in **814**.



23 An **Italian man** is credited with making the first **wearable eyeglasses** in around **1284**.



26 Very early **mapmakers** didn't know that **Australia, Antarctica** or the **Americas** **existed**.



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24 About **90%** of people living in the Middle Ages were **peasants** who farmed land owned by **rich people**.

27 Some **medieval people** thought **owls** were **witches**.



29 People wore a stilt-like device called a **patten** over their shoes that would keep their feet **above the filthy streets**.



25 **Knights** removed their **visors** to **show respect** to their **superiors**.

28 Many coin jars were made of a clay called **pygg** – which is how we got the name '**piggy bank**'.



30 **Nosewise**, **Sturdy** and **Hardy** were popular **dog names** in 11th-century England.



POKÉMON

TRADING CARD GAME

SCARLET & VIOLET OBSIDIAN FLAMES

NEWFOUND POWERS OF DARKNESS!

Red-hot embers illuminate the pitch-black night and sparks flare into an inferno as **Charizard ex** surges forth with newfound powers of darkness. Cool! The glittering **Terastal** phenomenon imbues some **Pokémon ex**, such as **Tyranitar**, **Eiscue** and **Vespiquen**, with different Types, while **Dragonite ex** and **Greedent ex** show mastery of their own inner strengths. Not to be outdone, **Revavroom ex**, **Melmetal ex** and other **Pokémon** promise to change the course of battle in the **Scarlet & Violet – Obsidian Flames** expansion!



Charizard ex

Over 190 cards, including more than 20 brand-new **Pokémon ex**!



Tyranitar ex



Dragonite ex

Revavroom ex



VIDEO GAME EXCLUSIVE!

You can obtain a **Charizard** with **Dark** as its **Tera Type** in your **Pokémon Scarlet** or **Pokémon Violet** video game! Enter the password **'DARKTERA0006'** in **Mystery Gift** from **24 July** to **31 August 2023**.

Scarlet & Violet–
Obsidian Flames
Elite Trainer Box

RAGING FLAMES FORGED IN DARKNESS!

Good news for **Pokémon** fans – the new **Pokémon Trading Card Game: Scarlet & Violet – Obsidian Flames** is out now! Introducing many new **Pokémon ex**, these **high risk, high reward** cards create fun and excitement!

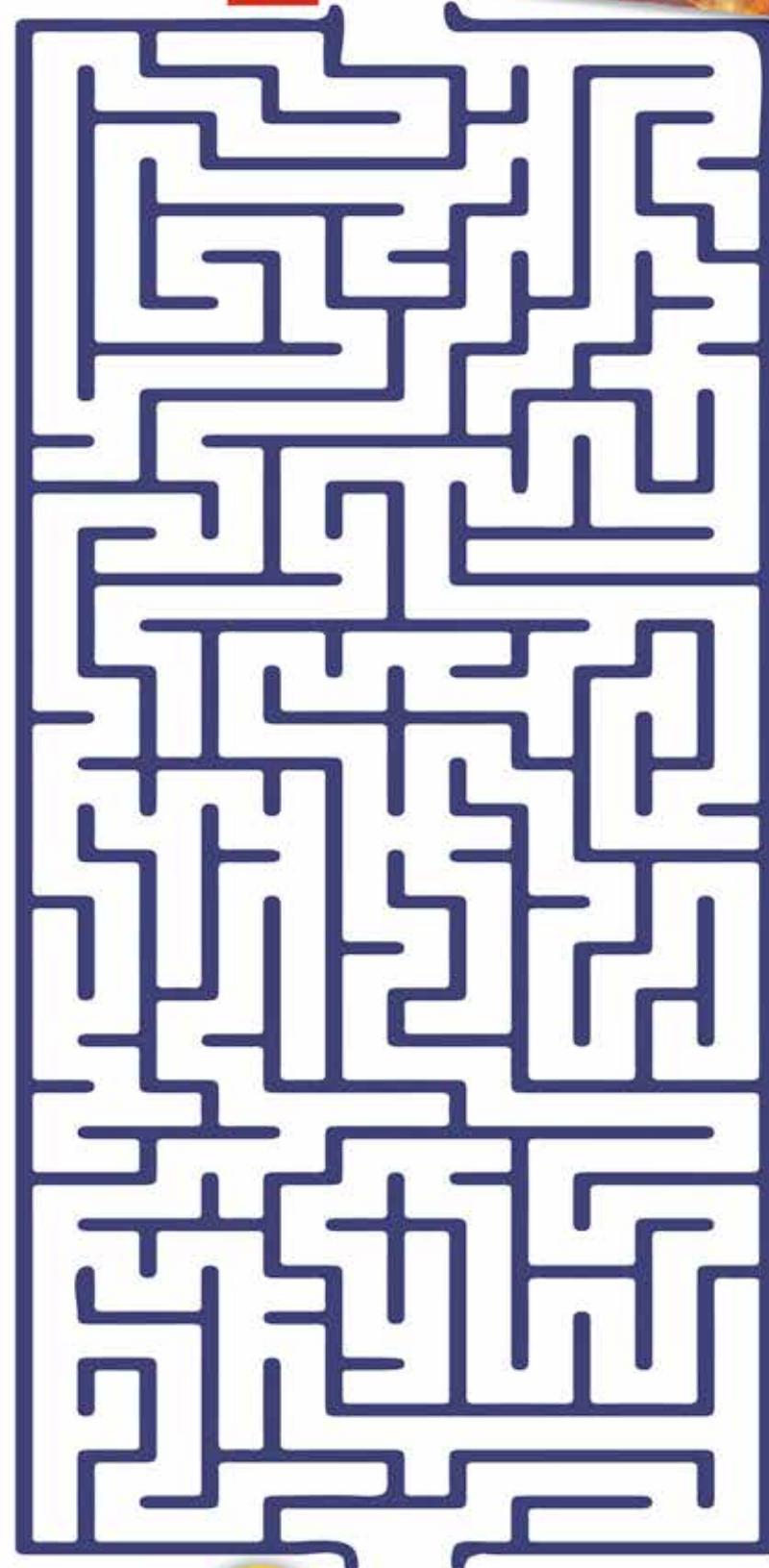
MAZE MAYHEM!

Can you guide **Charizard** through this maze?

Charizard ex



START



FINISH

Answer on
page 49



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4–14 at KidZania London! One of the epic activities is the exclusive **Pokémon Creative Studio**, where you get the chance to become a **Trading Card Game Designer**, designing your own card that you can take home with you. How cool is that? For more info and to book, visit kidzania.co.uk

WIN!

KIDZANIA TICKETS!

We've got **two family tickets*** for **KidZania London** up for grabs! Answer this question online to be in with a chance of winning!

Q What colours are scarlet and violet?
a) Red and purple **b)** Pink and yellow
c) Green and blue

*A family ticket to attend KidZania London is for two children and two adults, or three children and one adult. Value of up to £170.00. Travel not included. No responsibility can be accepted for entries not received for whatever reason including, without limitation, whether lost, corrupted, incomplete or for any failure to capture entry information.

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SCAN
HERE

JUNIOR EXPLORERS' CLUB



This issue, we hear from Nat Geo Kids readers in Aotearoa New Zealand! Check out their incredible local wildlife sightings and find out what they've been up to!



WILDLIFE WATCH New Zealand Special



Greetings from NZ!
We were outside by the washing line when we saw this **spider** on a **washing peg**. We're not sure what kind it is but we nicknamed it 'cat ears'!

Heidi, 13, and Talia, 12

What a cool spider! We think it's a two-spined spider, an Australian orb-weaving spider that's been spotted in New Zealand since the 1970s.



The peripatus is also called the velvet worm

Me and my friend **Luke** were **digging** in a **rotten stump** in my **grandparents' forest** in **Rotorua, NZ**, when we found a **peripatus**! It was **soft, velvety** and had funny **stubby feet**. My **grandad** said he'd never seen one before, and the cool thing is that they haven't really changed for **500 million years**!

Eamon, 8

What a find! These amazing invertebrates are known as 'living fossils' because they've been around for so long.



Hi Nat Geo Kids,
We found a **pūriri moth**! We think it had just emerged from its **chrysalis** because its **wings** were still **soft**. It was **drying in the sun**. They are native to NZ and are **REALLY** big – the female can grow up to **15cm**. The **caterpillars** live for **5–7 years** but the moths (below) only survive for **three days**! The caterpillars eat a lot of food but the moths don't eat – they only lay eggs which is why they don't live very long. They're fascinating!

Matilda, 7

Awesome! You were so lucky to see New Zealand's largest moth, Matilda. They're also known as ghost moths!



Matilda's massive pūriri moth!



It's Eamon (left) and Luke!



Olivia found this amazing 8cm amphibian!

Hi NG KIDS,

A few weeks ago my **sister** and I found a **green and golden bell frog** living in our **backyard** in **New Zealand**! At first we thought it was an **ornament** but we were excited to realise it was a **real, live frog**! Later that night, my **dog** and **cat** started **scaring** the frog, so we decided to **rescue** it by taking it to our **local wetlands**. I hope it's living a **happy life** there now. We always look out for it when we walk past.

Olivia, 9

Great spot, Olivia – we can see why you thought it was an ornament! These frogs were brought to NZ from Australia in the 1860s.

Hey Nat Geo Kids!
Here I am holding a **giant centipede** I found on my family's rural property in **New Zealand**, while my brother **Raffi** looks on. Some giant centipedes here are **venomous**, but I **REALLY, REALLY** wanted to hold one, so my mum covered my arm and hand with **five socks**. That way, if the centipede **bit**, it wouldn't get to my skin. I was absolutely stoked!

Kip, 5, and Raffi, 3

Well, we definitely **wouldn't** recommend holding giant centipedes, Kip – they can inflict a painful bite! Cool that you got to see NZ's largest native centipede, though. What a whopper!



It's Kip and Raffi!

POSTCARD FROM...

Aoraki /
Mount Cook, NZ



Hi Nat Geo Kids!

This summer, we hiked the **Hooker Valley Track**, all the way to the base of **Aoraki / Mount Cook** in **New Zealand**. It was the coolest hike ever!

Caiden and Carter, 5

What a fun experience, guys! We bet you saw some amazing scenery along the way.



ECO HERO

Hi Nat Geo Kids!
I live on a **farm** in **Mangatangi, New Zealand**. We have been taking care of our **waterways** by **fencing them off** from our **cattle**.

My brother and I were playing at a **freshwater spring** in our bush after a big storm and we found **three freshwater kōura**.

Nathan, 5

Well done for looking after your waterways, Nathan – it's clearly working!



These freshwater crayfish are only found in New Zealand!



Rinah and her tasty home-grown treats!

IN A JAM

We live just outside of **Timaru** in **New Zealand**. We have heaps of **feijoa trees** and get heaps of **feijoa fruit**. So by the end of the season, we end up getting sick of eating them, and anyway they start to go bad. This year we got lots of rain, which gave us **more** of the fruit, so I **made some feijoa jam** with my mum. It took a while, because we had to peel off the skins and chop them, but it was worth the effort.

Rinah, 11

Feijoas taste like a mixture of strawberry and pineapple, so we bet that jam is yum, Rinah! Though common in NZ gardens, feijoa trees originally came from South America.

ASTRO THE HERO

Dear Nat Geo Kids,
You may have heard of the big storm in **New Zealand** back in February before **cyclone Gabrielle**. Well, on the night of the storm, we were going to bed when our dog **Astro** started barking. Dad went to see what it was and then told us to get out of the house because a **landslide** was about to hit our home! Our house got partly destroyed but we all escaped safely, **thanks to Astro**.

Oscar, 10, Matilda, 8, Rupert, 5 & Beatrix, 2

Wow, kids, what a story, and what a heroic dog Astro is! We're so glad you're all safe and well.



The family's living room was wrecked!



Astro wearing a medal from his family!

FUN STUFF

GAMES,
LAUGHS
AND LOTS
TO DO!

WHICH MYTHICAL CREATURE ARE YOU?

1. How do you feel about secrets?

- A. I never, ever, ever give up a secret
- B. I can keep a secret – just not from my best friends
- C. I love to gossip and have a tough time keeping secrets
- D. Secrets can be harmful. Truth is always best!

2. What would you do if you won £100?

- A. Keep it somewhere safe for the future
- B. Donate it to a charity
- C. Do something fun with my friends or family
- D. Spend half on something I want and save the other half

4. Pick an ice-cream flavour:

- A. Chocolate fudge
- B. Vanilla with sauce or sprinkles
- C. Pistachio
- D. Raspberry ripple



5. Who's in your squad?

- A. Just me. I'm a lone wolf
- B. I have a few close friends
- C. I have many different friends, so my friendship group is always changing
- D. My family is always there for me

3. Choose an element:

- A. Fire
- B. Earth
- C. Air
- D. Water



RESULTS

IF YOU CHOSE MOSTLY...

If these descriptions don't match your personality, don't worry. These questions are just for fun.

A's You're a **dragon!**



Dragons are known for being **powerful creatures** that prefer to live **alone** with their **treasures** and **secrets**. Like a dragon, you're **happiest** when your habitat is **safe, warm** and **comfortable**. You **don't take big risks** in life, and that's OK. You're happy with yourself **exactly as you are**.

B's You're a **unicorn!**

Unicorns are **gentle** creatures. One **legend** tells of a unicorn whose **magical horn** cleaned a **toxic lake** so other animals could **drink**. As a unicorn, you're always **doing nice things** for others, and you're able to **see the good in everyone**. You love **nature** and **volunteering** for causes that are important to you.



C's You're a **sylph!**



The **winged fairy creatures** known as **sylphs** are **smart** and **charming**. As a sylph, you're **outgoing** and can get along with just about anyone in any situation. You're always up for **trying something new** – if you fail, no big deal! Your many friends think you're the **life of the party!**

D's You're a **fêng huang!**

When this **mythological Chinese bird** appears, it's said to be a sign of **world peace**. The **fêng huang** (say "FUNG hwong") is connected to the **yin-yang symbol** in Eastern thought, which means it represents **balance**. As a fêng huang, you're able to **see both sides of every issue** and **treat other people fairly**. You don't like things too hot or cold – you prefer everything to be **'just right.'**



6. How do you feel about failure?

- A. If you plan carefully, you can avoid failing
- B. It's normal. Everyone fails. Don't beat yourself up if you do
- C. Who cares? When I make a mistake, I just laugh it off
- D. You can't have success without failure

7. How often do you change your mind?

- A. Almost never. Once I make a decision I stick with it
- B. I like to listen to what other people have to say, so I keep an open mind all the time
- C. I can never make up my mind in the first place!
- D. If you give me good facts, I might change my mind

8. Where would you most like to hike?

- A. Through a cave
- B. In the woods
- C. On a mountain trail
- D. Around a lake



9. Which statement do you agree with most?

- A. You can find beauty in unexpected places if you look for it
- B. It's more important to be beautiful inside than out
- C. I love things that glitter and sparkle!
- D. I think music is the most beautiful thing on the planet

10. What do you do when your friends are fighting?

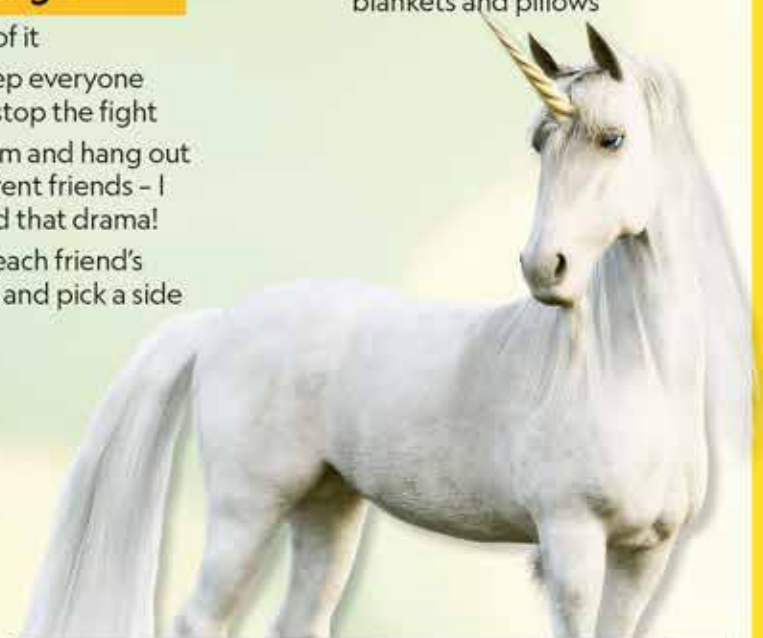
- A. I stay out of it
- B. I try to keep everyone calm and stop the fight
- C. I ditch them and hang out with different friends – I don't need that drama!
- D. I listen to each friend's argument and pick a side

11. Pick a motto:

- A. "With great power comes great responsibility"
- B. "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted"
- C. "Life is like ice cream. Enjoy it before it melts!"
- D. "Let there be peace on Earth"

12. What helps you get to sleep at night?

- A. A glass of milk and a biscuit
- B. Thinking good thoughts
- C. Who needs sleep? Not me!
- D. A comfortable nest of blankets and pillows



CHECK
OUT
THE
BOOK!

**Boost your
brainpower with
these perplexing
puzzles about
New Zealand!**

Answers
on page
49



Can you fit these **places** found in New Zealand into the grid? We've added some letters to get you started.

-



Write the name of each thing pictured into this grid – the pink squares will reveal the longest river in New Zealand.



Circle the blue, red and yellow letters to reveal a reptile that's endemic to New Zealand.



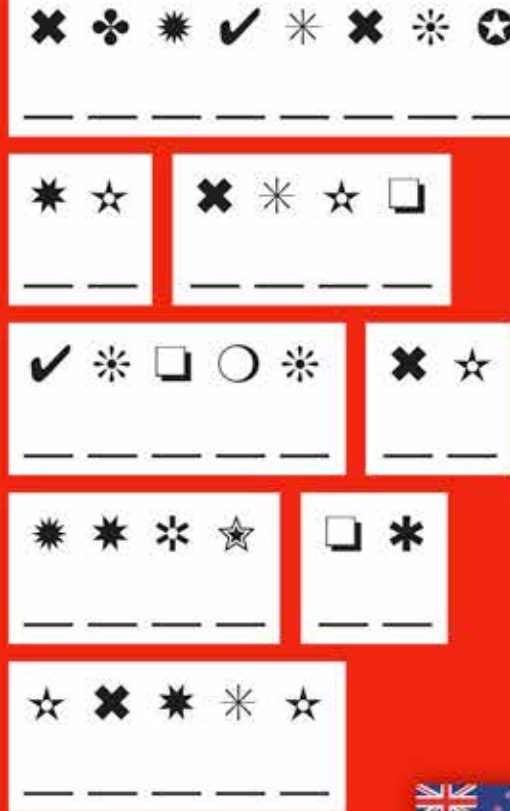
Read the answer from left to right!

Use this **code** to complete a cool **New Zealand** fact.

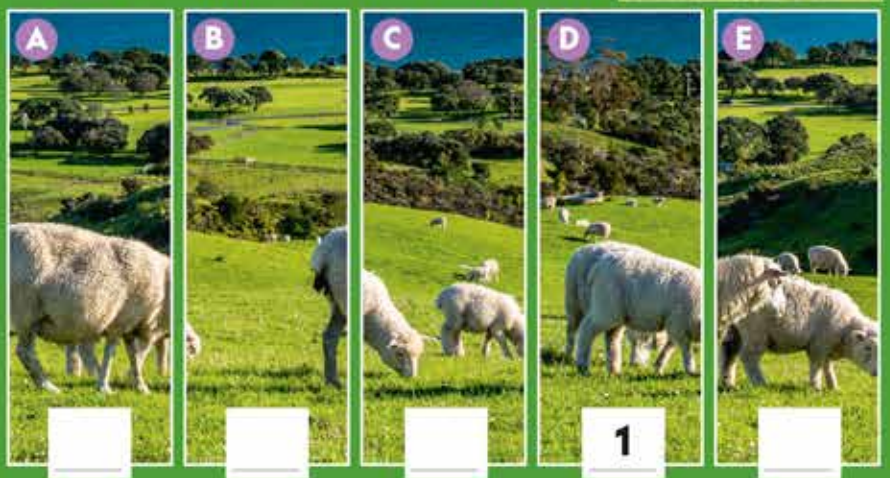


THE CODE

- ✕ - A
 ☆ - B
 ☼ - C
 ⦿ - D
 ◆ - E
 * - F
 † - G
 ✱ - I
 ✓ - K
 ✖ - L
 ☼ - N
 ◻ - O
 ☆ - S
 ✱ - T
 ♣ - U
 ○ - W
 ☆ - Y



Can you number these jumbled-up picture pieces, putting them in the correct order?



Tick the words which CAN be made from the letters in **MOUNT COOK**.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 MOON <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 CUT <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 KNOT <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 MUCK <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 TOWN <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 MINT <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 COUNT <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 NOT <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 NECK <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 UNIT <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 MONK <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 TOOK <input type="checkbox"/> |

Are these statements fact or fiction?

- 1 The Māori-language name for New Zealand is Aotearoa.
TRUE ☐ **FALSE** ☐
- 2 Christchurch is New Zealand's capital city.
TRUE ☐ **FALSE** ☐
- 3 New Zealand's national sport is rugby.
TRUE ☐ **FALSE** ☐
- 4 There are over 25 million sheep in New Zealand.
TRUE ☐ **FALSE** ☐
- 5 The national bird of New Zealand is the emu.
TRUE ☐ **FALSE** ☐
- 6 Britain is New Zealand's nearest neighbour.
TRUE ☐ **FALSE** ☐
- 7 The country's population is 5.1 million.
TRUE ☐ **FALSE** ☐
- 8 New Zealand is located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.

Tick the panels that contain the letters
to spell 'MILFORD SOUND'.

- 1 NDLFUSOMIORD ☐
- 2 LDOURFORMIDS ☐
- 3 DSOFORMILUDN ☐
- 4 MLFOIULDRDSO ☐
- 5 MCDSFUFONDF ☐
- 6 MUNIDSODLFOR ☐



FIND THE HIDDEN ANIMALS

Answers
on page
49

Animals often **blend in** with their **environments** for **protection** or to **help them hunt**. Find the creatures listed below in the pictures, then write the letter of the **correct photo** next to the **name** of each animal.

1. Great bittern (a type of heron) _____
2. Marbled rain frog _____
3. Swallow-tailed nightjar (a type of bird) _____
4. Ghost crab _____
5. Bearded pygmy chameleon _____
6. Tasselled wobbegong (a type of shark) _____
7. Pingasa moth _____



A



B



C



D



E



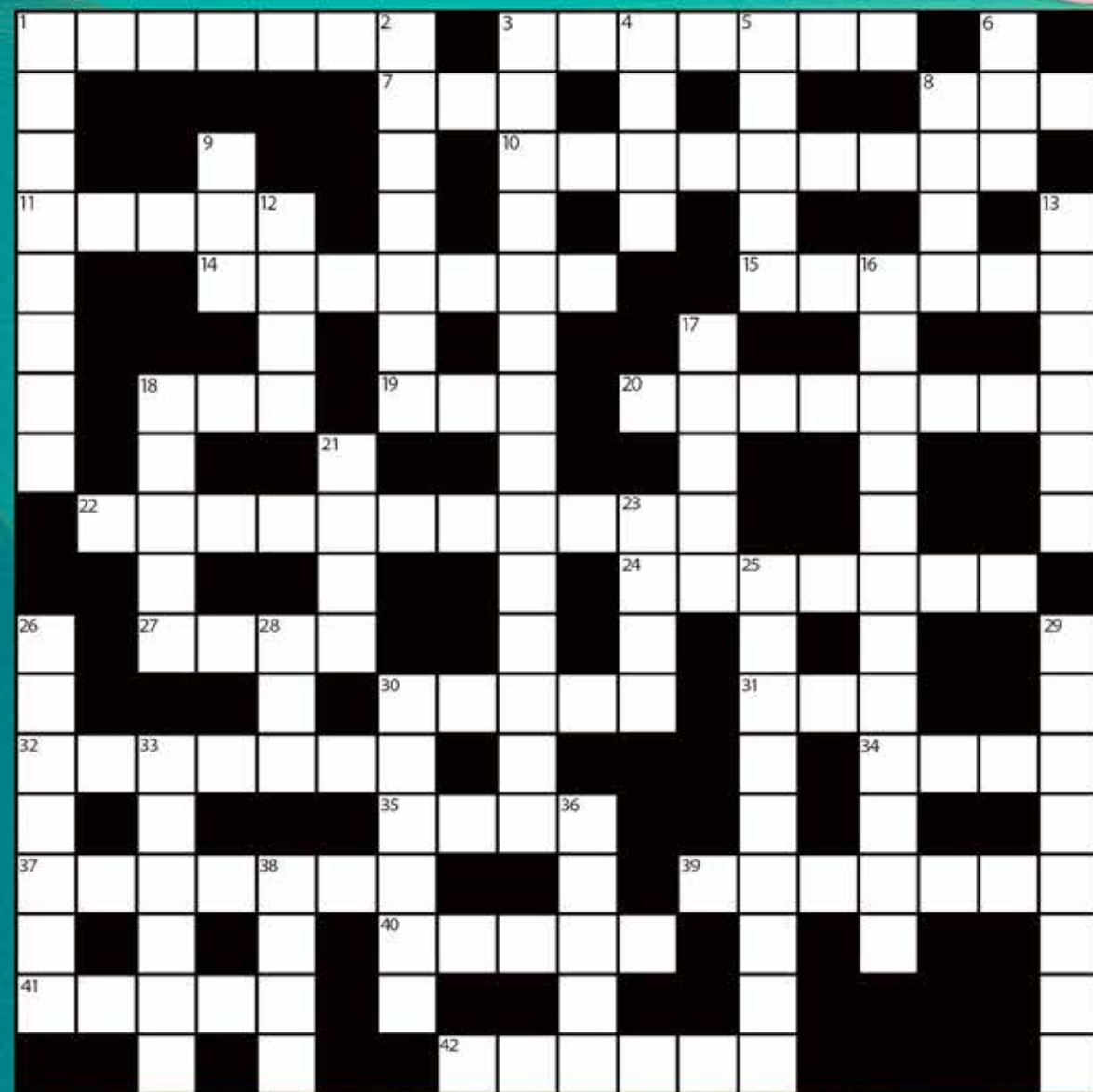
F



G

CROSSWORD

TOP TIP!
If you get stuck on one of the clues, move on to some others. You can go back to it when you've got extra letters!



ACROSS

- 1 United States of _____ (7)
- 3 Criminals of the sea (7)
- 7 Sound a sheep makes (3)
- 8 Cry (3)
- 10 Flying wetland insect (9)
- 11 Shoot this using a bow (5)
- 14 Wizard from *The Lord of the Rings* (7)
- 15 Cool area or cupboard for storing food (6)
- 18 Tree fluid (3)
- 19 Pointed end of an ink pen (3)
- 20 Take a dip outside in natural waters (4, 4)
- 22 Wooden furniture for outdoor eating (6, 5)
- 24 Fruit trees grow here (7)
- 27 Fun activity with rules (4)

DOWN

- 1 Hi-tech fish tank (8)
- 2 Leave something or someone behind (7)
- 3 Moving across water on an inflatable board (6, 8)
- 30 Thin bit of wood from a tree (5)
- 31 White fish, often battered and served with chips (3)
- 32 Tomato sauce (7)
- 34 Cooker (4)
- 35 Frogspawn are frogs' what? (4)
- 37 Notice or perceive (7)
- 39 Tripping (7)
- 40 Baked treats (5)
- 41 Wind instrument played by pop star Lizzo (5)
- 42 Fruit used to make cider (6)

- 4 Look at and understand written words (4)
- 5 Slang for someone who makes mean and annoying comments online. Also a doll or creature in Scandinavian folklore (5)
- 6 Dark brown sauce originally from China (3)
- 8 Travel over snow on this (4)
- 9 Poodle or Labrador, for example (3)
- 12 Pesky yellow and black striped insect (4)
- 13 Burglary, arson and kidnap are examples of what? (6)
- 16 A series of wooden figures that are stored one inside the other (7, 5)

- 17 Large flow of water leading to the sea (5)
- 18 What 12 Down might do! (5)
- 21 One of the four elements (4)
- 23 Fasten securely with a key (4)
- 25 Mixed drinks sometimes served with slices of fruit or mini-umbrellas (9)
- 26 Great British _____ Cooking show (4, 3)
- 28 Expression of disinterest (3)
- 29 Little game where you putt balls into holes (4, 4)
- 30 Saying pre-prepared words in front of an audience (6)
- 33 Blow your nose in this (6)
- 36 Forty winks (5)
- 38 Grassy plant that grows in fresh water (4)

Answers on page 49

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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you find ten differences between these two pics of New Zealand's capital city, Wellington?

Answers on page 49



Illustration © Getty Images UK

FUNNY FILL-IN

DISASTER CLASS

Ask a friend to give you words to fill in the blanks in this story without showing it to them. Then read it out loud for a laugh!



My class had been waiting for _____ months to do a fun chemistry experiment. Today we were going to learn how to make _____ out of _____. "First, dissolve one gram of _____ in one litre of water. Then _____ the mixture," said my teacher, Professor _____. Before I finished, they were already giving more instructions. To keep up, I took a pinch of _____ and threw it into a cup of _____. "Now _____ it _____ for two minutes," the professor said. Trying to hurry, I added a few _____ and _____, then _____ it _____ times. Suddenly the air around me turned _____ and smelled like _____. My lab partner dived under the _____ as the mixture began to _____. Then the experiment _____ all over the room, covering everyone in _____ goo. I guess that wasn't quite the reaction I was looking for.



Illustration: Dan Sipple

GRAMMAR TERMS

Noun – a person, place or thing
Verb – an action word that describes what a person or thing does
Adjective – a word that describes a noun
Adverb – a word that describes a verb

FUN STUFF MAKE IT BARREL POND

Create a small, simple, above-ground pond to help wetland wildlife...

Great for balconies and patios!

What you'll need

- A watertight container, such as a wooden barrel (use a liner if there are holes), large plastic tub or old sink. Even a small container with plants will attract wetland nature.
- Bricks or rocks
- Small stones or gravel
- Pebbles, rocks or sticks (for an escape route)
- Aquatic plants and plant baskets
- Rainwater

Insects, birds, amphibians and aquatic plants will love this wetland!



Start here!



1 Place your watertight tub where it will get plenty of light but where it isn't in direct sun all day. Put a layer of clean gravel or small stones in the bottom of the tub.



2 Use pebbles, rocks or pieces of wood to make an escape route for any visiting creatures. Use bricks to create levels for some of your plant baskets to sit on (some like to be submerged and others thrive just near the surface).



3 A few aquatic plants will provide habitat and oxygenate the water for wildlife. You could choose frogbit (similar to a lily) to float on top and spiked milfoil (green and feathery) as a submerged plant. See more plant ideas, right!



4 Fill your pond up with water! Rainwater is best, so collect some in buckets in advance. If there's no rain, let tap water stand for 48 hours before you use it, as this lets the chlorine gradually disappear.

NATIVE WETLAND PLANTS

Some of these plants will be perfect in your pond...

FLOATING PLANTS



FROGBIT



WATER CROWFOOT

SUBMERGED PLANTS



WATER VIOLET



HORNWORT

MARGINAL POND PLANTS



WATER MINT



MARSH MARIGOLD

Want to create other wonderful wetland habitats? For more ideas like this, head online to download WWT's mini-wetland guide.



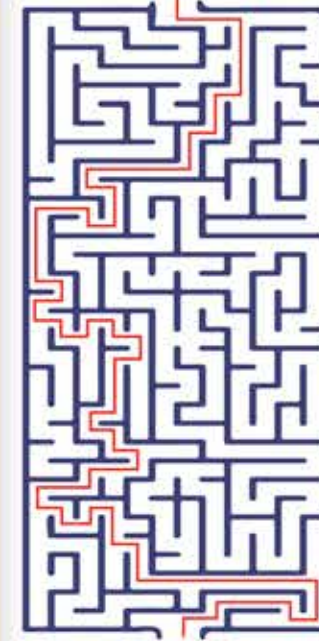
FUN STUFF ANSWERS

MYSTERY CREATURE (page 6)

IRISH ELK

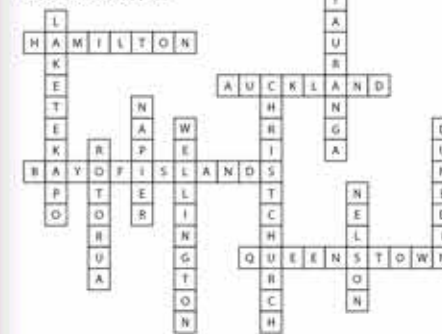
MAZE MAYHEM!

(page 34-35)



BRAIN TRAINING (page 40-41)

COOL COUNTRY



BAA-RILLIANT!



RIVER REVEAL

WAIKATO.

WHICH WORDS?

The words that can be made are: 1-MOON; 2-KNOT; 4-COUNT; 6-MONK; 7-CUT; 8-MUCK; 10-NOT; 12-TOOK.

COLOUR CROSS OUT

TUATARA.



CODE CRACKING!

AUCKLAND IS ALSO KNOWN AS CITY OF SAILS.

TRUE OR FALSE?

1-True; 2-False, it's Wellington; 3-True; 4-True; 5-False, it's the kiwi; 6-False, Australia is its nearest neighbour; 7-True; 8-True.

SPELL IT OUT

1, 3 and 6 contain the letters to spell out MILFORD SOUND.

FLAG FUN

Flags 3 and 9 both show the correct design of the New Zealand flag.



FIND THE HIDDEN ANIMALS

(pages 42-43)

1-D; 2-E; 3-A; 4-G; 5-F; 6-C; 7-B.

CROSSWORD (page 44)



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE (page 46)



THE LAST LAUGH

Q. How do lizards weigh themselves?
A. With their scales!

Q. What do geckos eat with their burgers?
A. French flies!

Q. How do geckos decorate their bathrooms?
A. With rep-tiles!

Q. What do you call a lizard that repeats itself?
A. A g-echo!

Q. What's a gecko's favourite film?
A. The Lizard of Oz!

Q. What kind of key doesn't open a lock?
A. A key-wi!

Q. What do you call a New Zealander who enjoys winter sports?
A. A Ski-wi!

Q. What do you call a bumblebee from New Zealand?
A. Pollen-esian!

Q. What do you call a kiwi on a rollercoaster?
A. A kiweeeeee!

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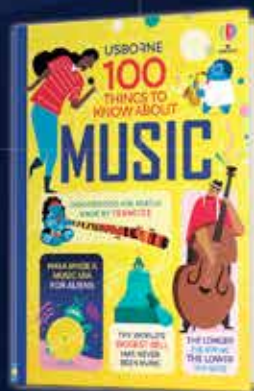
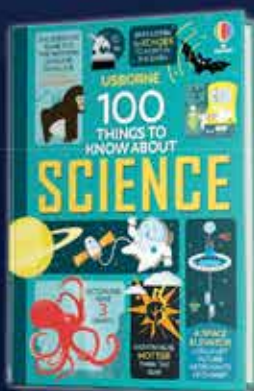
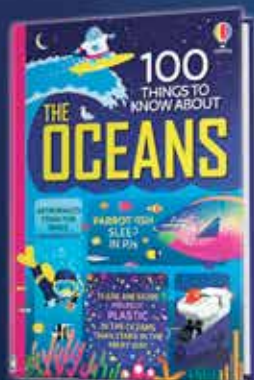
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